

18. (Amended) A desalination apparatus comprising:

at least first and second membrane module units at respective successive first and second stages for water permeation,

as a said first membrane unit at the first stage, a nanofiltration membrane module unit having a membrane module and an outlet channel for water permeated thereby,

as a said second membrane unit at the second stage, a reverse osmosis membrane module unit disposed in the outlet channel of the nanofiltration membrane unit; and

optionally means for diverting a portion of feed water supplied to the nanofiltration membrane module unit directly to the said outlet channel thereof so as to bypass the membrane module thereof.

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